

Canadian Friends of the École Biblique  
Les amis canadiens de l'École Biblique

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20 May 2016

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Dear Friend of the CFEB,

Warm greetings to you from the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique. We take this occasion to extend special congratulations to the Dominican Community worldwide as it celebrates its 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. And congratulations to the École Biblique on its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

The CFEB is also celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding in 1995–1996. In recognition of this occurrence, we offer a special insert about our history over the past 20 years, as well as the latest copy of *Les Nouvelles de Jerusalem*, the annual newsletter of the École Biblique. We have already begun to think about how to mark our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020!

During the past year, we have been working closely with Fr. Jean Jacques Pérennès, formerly Director of the Institut Dominicain d'Études Orientales in Cairo and Vicar Provincial of the Dominicans in the Arab World, who was appointed Director of the École Biblique in the summer of 2015. During the coming year, we will be cooperating with him in improving publicity and communications, especially on the English-language side. We hope that Fr. Pérennès might be able to visit Canada in the not-too-distant future and meet with the Canadian Friends in person — certainly he has a standing invitation.

**Funds for scholarships:**

During the past year, we have continued our contributions towards scholarships for Canadians who wish to further biblical, archaeological and related studies by studies and research at the world-famous École Biblique. This year we are offering scholarships to two former scholarship winners who are continuing their work at the École:

- **Dr. Ronald Charles**, who teaches Religious Studies at Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, is spending the month of May at

- the École Biblique putting finishing touches to a monograph on slavery in antiquity. Dr. Charles is the author of the 2014 Fortress Press publication, *Paul and the Politics of Diaspora*.
- **Sr. Marie de Lovinfosse**, CDN, is completing the Diplome d'Élève titulaire and writing her mémoire on "L'*episkope* divine à la porte de Naïn: étude exégétique de Lc 7,15." She is working towards a Licenciante in Sacred Scripture (the SSL degree) from the Pontifical Biblical Commission and a doctoral degree from the Dominican University College in Ottawa.

In a survey that we undertook of past scholarship recipients, it became very clear that offering financial support for study and research in Jerusalem is our most important and successful work as CFEB. This program benefits the recipients individually but equally important it is making the École Biblique better known throughout Canada, especially in academic and Protestant circles that previously did not have direct contact with the school.

#### **A Website for CFEB:**

We are moving ahead with plans to develop a website for the CFEB to provide greater access to our work, our history and the opportunities we offer to students and researchers. We offer special thanks to Fr. Darren Dias and the Dominican Foundation of Toronto for their guidance and support of this endeavour. We will share our online address as soon as the website is up and running.

#### **Annual get-together:**

Several years ago, we began inviting former scholarship recipients and other friends and alumni of the École Biblique to a presentation by one of our recent research scholarship winners. This spring, Prof. Dan Machiela, incoming head of the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, offered a lecture on the Aramaic writings in the Dead Sea Scrolls. He plans to publish two volumes on the Aramaic texts, providing an advanced introduction for scholars working on these manuscripts, which are among the lesser known and less studied parts of the Dead Sea Scrolls corpus.

#### **How you may contribute:**

The work of the Canadian Friends is funded with contributions from individuals, foundations, churches, religious orders and businesses from across Canada.

The enclosed sheet provides information on how you can contribute to this work in support of biblical and archaeological teaching and research in Canada and worldwide.

With appreciation and best wishes,

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